



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

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Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 Section 201: Independent Assessments

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) ("Choice Act"). Technical revisions to the Choice Act were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175). Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) goal continues to be to provide timely, high-quality health care for Veterans. VA's focus and priority is on timely and effective implementation of this highly complex piece of legislation.

Title II, Section 201 requires VA to enter into one or more contracts with an independent entity to assess VA's delivery of hospital care and specifically to assess areas such as staffing, training, facilities, business processes, and leadership.

Background

In order to comprehensively examine VA's ability to deliver high-quality health care to Veterans, Section 201 calls for VA to enter into a contract with an independent entity to assess hospital care, medical services, and other health care in VA medical facilities.

Assessment Timeline

In furtherance of this requirement, on September 30, 2014, VA awarded a contract to MITRE Corporation's Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Alliance to Modernize Healthcare (CAMH). CAMH is a private Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC), focused on large scale transformation of health care systems in both the public and private sectors. As a not-for-profit corporation, chartered to work in the public interest, CAMH is uniquely positioned to ensure impartiality in the conduct and analysis of the independent assessments required by the Choice Act. In conducting the required assessments, CAMH will partner with other private sector health care leaders in order to identify best practices, industry knowledge, and state of the art tools and technologies that can be used to improve and modernize the care Veterans receive.

The assessments must be completed within 240 days of contract award, and the final report must be submitted to VA, Congress, and the Commission on Care 60 days

thereafter. The Secretary will then have 30 days to publish the report in the Federal Register and on a VA website

Assessment Details

The assessment will cover a broad range of areas involved with how VA plans, delivers, and monitors health care quality, including:

- Current and projected Veteran demographics and health care needs
- Current and projected VA health care capabilities and resources
- Appropriate VA system-wide access standard for care
- Workflow of scheduling processes
- Workflow, processes, and tools used to support clinical staffing, documentation, and subsequent coding of inpatient services
- Staffing levels by facility
- IT strategies for furnishing and managing health care
- Authorities and mechanisms for furnishing non-VA care
- Business processes for furnishing non-VA care
- Purchasing, distribution, and use of pharmaceuticals, supplies, and devices
- Process for carrying out construction, leasing, and maintenance projects
- Competency of leadership